

Isaiah 65:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

Analysis

God pronounces judgment on the rebellious: "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee." Their name becomes a byword for divine judgment—others will use it as a curse formula (Jeremiah 29:22). The Hebrew shevuah (curse/oath) suggests their name exemplifies what happens to those who rebel against God. "The Lord GOD shall slay thee" uses *hemit* (put to death), indicating decisive judgment. Then comes the glorious contrast: "and call his servants by another name." God's servants receive new identity—*shem acher* (another name) replacing the old. This anticipates Revelation 2:17's "new name" and 3:12's writing of God's name on overcomers. From a Reformed perspective, this describes the total identity transformation in salvation. The old name (identity in Adam, defined by sin and rebellion) is replaced by a new name (identity in Christ, defined by righteousness and adoption). The wicked remain defined by their rebellion and face its consequences; the righteous receive new identity rooted in God's gracious naming.

Historical Context

The rebellious Israelites who rejected God's covenant became proverbial examples of judgment—like Sodom and Gomorrah. Conversely, believers received new names: Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter. The early church was called "Christians" (Acts 11:26)—a new identity in Christ. This pattern continues: those who reject Christ are identified with judgment, while

believers are identified as children of God (1 John 3:1), saints, the elect—names signifying new identity and destiny.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that the rebellious leave their name 'for a curse'?
2. How has God given you a 'new name'—new identity in Christ?
3. What responsibility comes with bearing the name 'Christian' or 'servant of God'?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנַּחְתָּם	שֵׁם	לְשׁוּבָה	לְבַחִיבִי	וְהָמִיתָ	אֲדֹנָי
And ye shall leave	name	for a curse	unto my chosen	shall slay	for the Lord
H3240	H8034	H7621	H972	H4191	H136
הָאֱלֹהִים	וְלַעֲבָדָיו	וְקָרָאתָ	שֵׁם	אֲחֵר:	
GOD	his servants	thee and call	name	by another	
H3069	H5650	H7121	H8034	H312	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 62:2 (References Lord): And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Acts 11:26 (Parallel theme): And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Romans 9:26 (References God): And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

Zechariah 8:13 (Curse): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

Isaiah 65:9 (Parallel theme): And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.

Jeremiah 29:22 (Curse): And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;

Isaiah 65:22 (Parallel theme): They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.